



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Marc Elrich
County Executive

July 14, 2020

Michelle Belski
Chair, Commission on Child Care
Department of Health and Human Services
1401 Rockville Pike, Suite 200
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Ms. Belski,

Thank you for the work that you and the Commission does on behalf of children, families and child care providers in the County. I am in receipt of your letter regarding the need to re-open child care programs in Montgomery County Schools (MCPS) facilities. I agree that child care is an essential service in our county and that families cannot return to work without child care.

In the last week we have been able to work out a plan with MCPS to open programs in our Child Care in Public Space Program that are inside school buildings. This program is managed by the Department of Health and Human Services and these are the full day child care programs for children aged birth to five years old. MCPS has also agreed to open the spaces that they manage and lease directly to full day child care programs.

For before and after school child care programs for school aged children, which are in shared space in MCPS facilities, I have asked Ramona Bell-Pearson, my Director of Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF), to work with MCPS and the Board of Education. They will be working to develop a plan to re-open these programs with input from providers that currently license MCPS space through CUPF. This should include a timeline for re-opening before and after school child care for school age children. It is my understanding that in planning for the summer and fall MCPS is balancing what space may be required to possibly return to school in smaller groups (requiring more space) with the shared space needs of before and after school child care programs that are licensed through CUPF.

We will continue to partner with the Board of Education and Montgomery County Schools to resolve this issue. I am confident that with collaboration these issues can be resolved so that we can meet the needs of many of the families returning to work. Child care like all other services will look different in the coming months and we will all have to adjust for the continued threat presented by this Pandemic.

Response to Commission on Child Care

July 14, 2020

Page 2 of 2

I understand the dilemma for parents without child care services available and the struggle that child care programs are facing. This is further impacted by the fact that the County and the State have been moving toward a fuller back to work and open for business activity level with many families returning to work. It is with that in mind that we are working to facilitate accommodations for child care while being careful not to compromise the progress we have made in slowing the spread of the Coronavirus. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through these complex issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc Elrich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marc" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Elrich".

Marc Elrich
County Executive